

## AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Replace Paragraph [0009] with the following new paragraph:

[0009] As also shown in Fig. 2, the SSP 14 is connected through a corresponding STP 17 to a SCP 18. The SSP 14 is operative to generate SS7 ISUP control messages to set-up and tear-down calls, as described above, while the SCP 18 replies to ~~TCAP~~ Transaction Capabilities Application Part (TCAP) query messages to support the exchange of call logic related data across the SS7 portion of the network. However, the STP 17 and SCP 18 are connected to a signaling gateway 36. The signaling gateway 36 converts the SS7 control messages into SS7 IP packets that are relayed through the backbone network 32 to a signaling gateway (not shown) at the destination that converts SS7 IP packets back to SS7 signals. The destination gateway is connected to a destination STP and a destination SCP (not shown) that are operative, upon receiving the SS7 control messages to complete the call, also as described above. Additionally, a media gateway controller 38 is shown in Fig. 2 that is connected to the media gateway 34 and the signaling gateway 36. The SSP 14 exchanges ISUP messages with SSP's via the signaling gateway 36 to handle the registration and management of resources, such as data paths, at the media gateway 34. The media gateway 34, signaling gateway 36 and media gateway controller 38 may be provided by the LEC 13, or the IP backbone network 32, and provide an interface between the conventional SSP 14, STP 17 and SCP 18 and the IP backbone network 32.

Replace Paragraph [0031] with the following new paragraph:

[0031] If, in decision block 82, the subroutine determines that the request does include ~~a flow control~~ an IP packet transmission set up request, the subroutine transfers to decision block 86 where the aggregate flow route or address pair is configured to the requested level. The subroutine then advances to functional block 88 where the completion of the configuration is acknowledged to the requestor. The subroutine then returns to block 70 to await the next request.